

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 L-03 /031 W

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R 302217Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8600

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MEXICO 5785

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN MX

SUBJECT: RETURN OF MEXICAN CURRENCIES COLLECTED AT VERACRUZ IN
1914.

REF: STATE 147099

1. OUR INITIAL REACTION TO PROPOSAL IN REFTEL IS THAT ANY
REMINDER OF US 1914 OCCUPATION OF VERACRUZ IS LIKELY TO
HAVE BAD EFFECTS ON OUR RELATIONS WITH MEXICO. GOM OFFICIALS
RARELY MISS OPPORTUNITY PUBLICLY TO NOTE PAST US VIOLATIONS
OF MEXICAN SOVEREIGNTY AND LOSS OF MEXICAN TERRITORY TO
UNITED STATES.

2. DESPITE RISKS, IT IS CONCEIVABLE WE MIGHT GET SOME
BENEFIT OUT OF RETURN OF MEXICAN PROPERTY. THOUGH ON
GRANDER SCALE THAN SEQUESTERED CURRENCY, WE RECALL RETURN
TO MEXICO SOME YEARS AGO OF FLAGS IN WHICH NINOS HEROES
HAD WRAPPED THEMSELVES PRIOR TO JUMPING OFF CHAPULTEPEC
RAMPARTS. PERHAPS WE COULD RETURN VERACRUZ BOOTY ON ANNUAL
CELEBRATION OF VERACRUZ INVASION DAY.

3. IF WE DO ANYTHING AT ALL, WE SUGGEST WE RETURN ALL
GOM PROPERTY, INCLUDING GOLD AND SILVER COINS, AND US
CURRENCY AND NOT JUST PAPER OBLIGATIONS.

4. TO HELP IN MAKING DECISION WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY
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AVAILABLE INFORMATION ON SEVERAL POINTS:

A. WHO IS OWNER OF MONEY CITED, GOM OR USG?

B. IS INTENT TO RETURN TO MEXICAN OBLIGATIONS IN EXCHANGE
FOR PAYMENT OR AS RETURN OF GOM PEOPERTY TO GOM?

C. ARE WE CORRECT IN OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT TREASURY INTENDS
TO RETURN MEXICAN PAPER CURRENCY, BONDS AND STAMPS ONLY?
OR ARE MEXICAN COINS AND US CURRENCY INCLUDED?

D. ARE CONTENTS OF "SEALED" BOX KNOWN?

E. IS IT KNOWN WHETHER OR NOT MEXICAN PAPER CURRENCY AND
BONDS HAVE CURRENT MONETARY VALUE? IT IS LIKELY THAT THEY DO
NOT, BUT WOULD HAVE VALUE AS COLLECTOR'S ITEMS.

F. WOULD APPRECIATE MORE DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF MEXICAN
CURRENCY AND BONDS. IS CURRENTY PRIVATE BANK NOTES AND
ARE BONDS PRIVATE OR PUBLIC?

5. WITH OUR VIEWS PARTLY DEPENDENT ON ANSWERS TO POINTS
IN PARA 4 ABOVE, WE BELIEVE IT ESSENTIAL THAT WE EXPLORE
IN LOW KEY MANNER WITH GOM OFFICIALS VARIOUS POSSIBILITIES
FOR RELEASE OF PROPERTY. JOVA

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CULTURAL PROPERTY, CURRENCIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MEXICO05785
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750227-0193
From: MEXICO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975064/aaaaacwq.tel
Line Count: 85
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 147099
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 SEP 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <11 SEP 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RETURN OF MEXICAN CURRENCIES COLLECTED AT VERACRUZ IN 1914.
TAGS: EFIN, MX, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006